

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-14, 16, 18-46, 48-59, 61, 63-91, 93-104, 106, 108-135 are pending in the present application. By this Response, claims 2, 17, 47, 62, 92 and 107 are cancelled. Claims 1, 3-14, 16, 18-46, 48-59, 61, 63-91, 93-104, 106, 108-135 are amended. No new matter has been added as a result of the amendments to the claims. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

I. Objections to Claims 2-14, 16-45, 47-104, and 106-135

The Examiner has objected to claims 2-14, 16-46, 47-104, and 106-135 because of various informalities. By this response, claims 3-14, 16, 18-46, 48-59, 61, 63-91, 93-104, 106, 108-135 have been amended to correct minor errors as suggested by the Examiner. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph, Claims 1-14, 16-59, 61-104 and 106-135

The Examiner rejects claims 1-14, 16-59, 61-104, and 106-135 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

The Examiner states that claim 1 is unclear as to what Applicants mean by "automatically update dynamic contact information" and how Applicants define the dynamic contact information. In response to this rejection, claims 1, 46, and 91 have been amended to recite "specifying, for a given client within the plurality of clients, a plurality of subscribed entities for which the given client subscribes to automatically receive an update of dynamic contact information of the plurality of subscribed entities from a dynamic contact information service, wherein the dynamic contact information service dynamically updates the dynamic contact information from a calendar system to indicate current contact information for the plurality of entities, and wherein the dynamic contact information comprises dynamic contact records indicating current statuses and information relating to the current statuses of the plurality of entities."

Thus, claims 1, 46, and 91 now clarify that the given client automatically receives an update of dynamic contact information of entities to which the given client subscribes from a

dynamic contact information service. Also, claims 1, 46, and 91 now define the dynamic contact information as dynamic contact information that comprises dynamic contact records indicating current statuses and information relating to the current statuses of the plurality of entities.

In addition, the Examiner stated that the claim is presented in a confusing manner and it is hard to determine as whether the plurality of entities and the plurality of given entities are different from the plurality of subscribed entities. Claims 1, 46, and 91 have been amended to recite only two pluralities of entities: 1) a plurality of entities that is retrieved from the dynamic contact information service and 2) a plurality of subscribed entities that the given client subscribes to receive automatic update of their dynamic contact information. In addition, claims 1, 46, and 91 clarify the relationship between the two pluralities, which is that the plurality of entities comprises the plurality of subscribed entities.

Furthermore, the Examiner states that it is not clear how one of ordinary skill in the art would retrieve a plurality of dynamic contact records from one or more status system, when the status system only coupled to at least one status server and a plurality of client computer. Claims 1, 46, and 91 have been amended to recite "retrieving a plurality of dynamic contact records for the plurality of entities from the dynamic contact information service." Thus, claims 1, 46, and 91 now states that the plurality of dynamic contact records is retrieved from a dynamic contact information service.

Accordingly, rejections of claims 1, 3-14, 16, 18-46, 48-59, 61, 63-91, 93-104, 106, 108-135 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph have been overcome.

III. 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Alleged Obviousness, Claims 1-14, 16-54, 61-104 and 106-141

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-14, 16-54, 61-104 and 106-141 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Elliott et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0064149) in view of Morkel (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0052921). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended independent claim 1, which is representative of claims 46, and 91 with regard to similarly subject matter, now recites:

1. A method in a computer system for providing dynamic contact information, said method comprising the steps of:
establishing a status system, including at least one status server and a

plurality of clients;

specifying, for a given client within the plurality of clients, a plurality of subscribed entities for which the given client subscribes to automatically receive an update of dynamic contact information of the plurality of subscribed entities from a dynamic contact information service, wherein the dynamic contact information service dynamically updates the dynamic contact information from a calendar system to indicate current contact information for the plurality of entities, and wherein the dynamic contact information comprises dynamic contact records indicating current statuses and information relating to the current statuses of the plurality of entities;

retrieving a plurality of dynamic contact records for the plurality of entities from the dynamic contact information service, wherein the plurality of entities comprises the plurality of subscribed entities;

sending the plurality of dynamic contact records to the at least one status server;

identifying, at the at least one status server, at least one subscribed dynamic contact record from the plurality of dynamic contact records that corresponds to one of the plurality of subscribed entities;

updating at least one dynamic contact record in the at least one status server with the at least one subscribed dynamic contact record;

automatically sending the at least one subscribed dynamic contact record from the at least one status server to said given client; and

displaying, at the given client, information for one of the plurality of subscribed entities from the at least one subscribed dynamic contact record based on display preferences specified by an operator of the given client.

Neither Elliot nor Morkel teaches or suggests the features emphasized above. Elliott teaches a system and a method for providing requested quality of service in a hybrid network. More particularly, Elliott teaches that the system provides subscribers the ability to establish a personal home page, which provides a vehicle for people to communicate with or schedule meetings with the subscriber. The home page allows a guest to create and send text-based pager messages, create and send email messages, and access the subscriber's calendar. See Elliott et al., paragraphs [3064]-[3087]. The subscriber may use personal home page profile management features to establish and maintain contact information, as well as establish and maintain a personal calendar. See Elliott et al., paragraphs [3198]-[3206].

Morkel teaches a system and a method for managing contact information. A user can send or update personal information to selected recipients by attaching a message to an email directed to the recipients or by checking a field in an email indicating that personal information is included, see Morkel, paragraph [0007]. The recipient must then receive the

email, open the email, and select the sender's "livecard," which comprises the sender's personal information.

Neither Elliot nor Morkel, either alone or in combination, teaches or suggests specifying, for a given client within the plurality of clients, a plurality of subscribed entities for which the given client subscribes to automatically receive an update of dynamic contact information of the plurality of subscribed entities from a dynamic contact information service, wherein the dynamic contact information service dynamically updates the dynamic contact information from a calendar system to indicate current contact information for the plurality of entities, and wherein the dynamic contact information comprises dynamic contact records indicating current statuses and information relating to the current statuses of the plurality of entities.

The Office Action alleges that Elliot teaches these features in paragraphs 3199-3206, which read as follows:

Personal Home Page Profile Management provides subscribers the ability to customize their Personal Home Page and define how guests can communicate with them (email or text-based pager). In addition, Profile Management also enables subscribers to control guest access to their calendar. Specifically, the subscriber is able to:

- Establish and maintain a greeting message;
- Establish and maintain a contact information (i.e., address information);
- Establish and maintain a personal calendar;
- Enable or disable guest access to paging, email or calendar;
- Control guest access to calendar by defining PINs for standard or privileged access; and

Incorporation an approved subscriber submitted graphic, such as personal photo or corporate logo, on a predefined location on the Personal Home Page.

Upon creation of the Personal Home Page, the contact information is populated with the subscriber's delivery address information. The subscriber has the capability to update that address information contained within the contact information.

Elliott et al., paragraphs 3199-3206

In the above sections, Elliot teaches how subscribers may customize their home page to define how guests may communicate with them as well as control guest access to their calendar, for example, to establish a greeting message, a contact information, a personal calendar, to enable a guest access to paging, to define PINs for standard or privileged access, and to incorporate graphic on the Personal Home Page. Thus, Elliot merely teaches how the

subscriber can define information that is accessible by guests. Elliot does not teach or suggest either the subscribers receiving automatic updates of dynamic contact information from the guests, or the guests receiving automatic updates of dynamic contact information from the subscribers. To the contrary, in paragraph 3102, Elliot teaches the following:

Another means for a guest to locate a Personal Home Page is through the WWW Browser. Many WWW Browsers have built in search capabilities for 'Net Directory'. Users' Personal Home Pages are listed within the directories of Internet addresses presented by the WWW Browser. The benefit to conducting your search from the MCI Home Page is that only Person Home Pages are indexed (and searched). Conducting the search through the WWW Browser menu option will not limit the search to Personal Home Pages and therefore will conduct a search through a larger list of URLs. In addition, guests have the capability to enter the specific URL (i.e., Open Location) for the Personal Home Page rather than performing a search. This is especially important for those subscribers that have their Person Home Page "unlisted" in the directory.

Elliott et al., paragraph 3102

Thus, instead of specifying a subscriber to automatically receive updates of dynamic contact information, Elliot teaches that the guests have to conduct a search via a WWW Browser menu option or enter a specific URL for the Personal Home Page of the subscriber. Nowhere in the reference does Elliot teach or suggest an automatic update of dynamic contact information is specified to be received by either the subscribers or the guests. The subscribers of Elliot merely define what information is accessible to the guests, who have to perform a search for the Personal Home Page. In addition, Elliot fails to teach a dynamic contact information service that dynamically updates dynamic contact information from a calendar system. Elliot's subscribers have to manually enter updated contact information into the Personal Home Page. Therefore, Elliot does not teach or suggest specifying, for a given client within the plurality of clients, a plurality of subscribed entities for which the given client subscribes to automatically receive an update of dynamic contact information of the plurality of subscribed entities from a dynamic contact information service, wherein the dynamic contact information service dynamically updates the dynamic contact information from a calendar system to indicate current contact information for the plurality of entities, and wherein the dynamic contact information comprises dynamic contact records indicating current statuses and information relating to the current statuses of the plurality of entities.

Morkel also does not teach or suggest such features. In paragraph 38, Morkel teaches that if the recipient is a valid subscriber of the service provided by the server, the recipient is made aware of the new contact information by an email message or a message displayed in a browser window by the server. However, the service provided by the server of Morkel is different from an update of dynamic contact information that is received from the dynamic information service of the presently claimed invention. In paragraph 26, Morkel teaches that the server is connected to a proprietary database which securely stores user identities and user contact information. Thus, the user contact information in the database is static. The user contact information in the database of Morkel is not dynamically updated from a calendar system in a manner that is recited in claims 1, 46, and 91 of the present invention.

In addition, neither Elliot nor Morkel, either alone or in combination, teaches or suggests retrieving a plurality of dynamic contact records for the plurality of entities from the dynamic contact information service, wherein the plurality of entities comprises the plurality of subscribed entities; sending the plurality of dynamic contact records to the at least one status server; or updating at least one dynamic contact record in the at least one status server with the at least one subscribed dynamic contact record. As discussed above, neither Elliot nor Morkel teaches or suggests the dynamic contact information service, therefore, neither Elliot nor Morkel teaches or suggests retrieving a plurality of dynamic contact records for the plurality of entities from the dynamic contact information service. In addition, Elliot does not retrieve dynamic contact records from the dynamic contact service. As discussed above, Elliot's subscribers specify the information to be accessible by the guests. Furthermore, the Office Action alleges that Elliot teaches the above features in paragraphs 3565, 3693, 3714-3716, which read as follows:

Depending on the choices made by the user, the following status messages are provided to the user for each selection identified below:

FIG. 69 P depicts the main menu for the ARU User Call routine for processing a call from a subscriber. This routine is performed as Step 69052 in the ARU Guest Menu routine as depicted in FIG. 69D, if the caller enters a valid passcode. After playing an introductory welcome greeting, the ARU checks to see if the subscriber's mailbox is full. If the mailbox is full, the ARU plays a message informing the subscriber of this condition in Step 69300. After playing this warning, or if the mailbox is not full, the ARU in Step 69302 plays a status recording informing the subscriber of the number of new voicemail messages and fax messages stored for the subscriber.

If the subscriber selects an option to activate or deactivate a pager, the ARU in Step 69538 plays a recorded message indicating the new status of the pager notification option. In Step 69540, the ARU toggles the current status of the pager option (i.e., enables the option if it is currently disabled, or disables the option on if it is currently enabled). After the toggle, the ARU returns to Step 69530.

If the subscriber selects the pager notification option, the ARU in Step 69542 plays a recording indicating the current setting of the pager notification option. In Step 69544, the ARU presents the subscriber with a list of options relating to pager notification. In the example, item '1' corresponds to a request to select notification by pager only of incoming voicemails; item '2' corresponds to a request to select notification by pager only of incoming faxes; item '3' corresponds to select request to select notification by pager both for incoming voicemails and for incoming faxes; and item '4' corresponds to a request to turn off call pager notification completely. If the subscriber selects one of the these options, the ARU in Step 69546 performs the ARU Program routine, described below with respect to FIG. 69AA, passing it a first parameter to indicate that the pager notification option is desired to be altered, and second parameter indicating the value to which the option should be set. Following Step 69546, the ARU returns to Step 59530. Likewise, if the subscriber selects a cancel and return option in Step 69544, the ARU returns to Step 69530.

If the subscriber selects an option in Step 69530 to activate or deactivate his or her account, the ARU in Step 69550 plays a recorded message indicating the new account status. In Step 69552, the ARU toggles the current status of the account option (i.e., activates the option if it is currently deactivated, or deactivates the option on if it is currently activated). After the toggle, the ARU returns to Step 69530.

Elliot et al., paragraph 3565, 3693, 3714-3716

In the above sections, Elliot merely teaches a routine that checks to see if the subscriber's mailbox is full and plays a message to inform the subscriber if the mailbox is full or plays a status recording to inform the subscriber that new voicemail message and/or fax messages are stored if the mailbox is not full. The routine also plays a recorded message indicating status of a pager option based on a subscriber's selection. However, nowhere in these sections or any other section of the reference does Elliot teach or suggest sending the plurality of dynamic contact records to the at least one status server. To the contrary, in paragraph 3565, Elliot teaches the status messages are provided to the user upon choices made by the user. Thus, instead of sending the messages to a status server and updating the subscribed dynamic contact records in the status server, the system of Elliot provides status

messages directly to the subscriber. Therefore, Elliot does not teach or suggest the features of claims 1, 46, and 91 of the present invention.

Similarly, Morkel also does not teach or suggest retrieving a plurality of dynamic contact records for the plurality of entities from the dynamic contact information service, wherein the plurality of entities comprises the plurality of subscribed entities; sending the plurality of dynamic contact records to the at least one status server; or updating at least one dynamic contact record in the at least one status server with the at least one subscribed dynamic contact record. Figure 1A of Morkel is shown below:

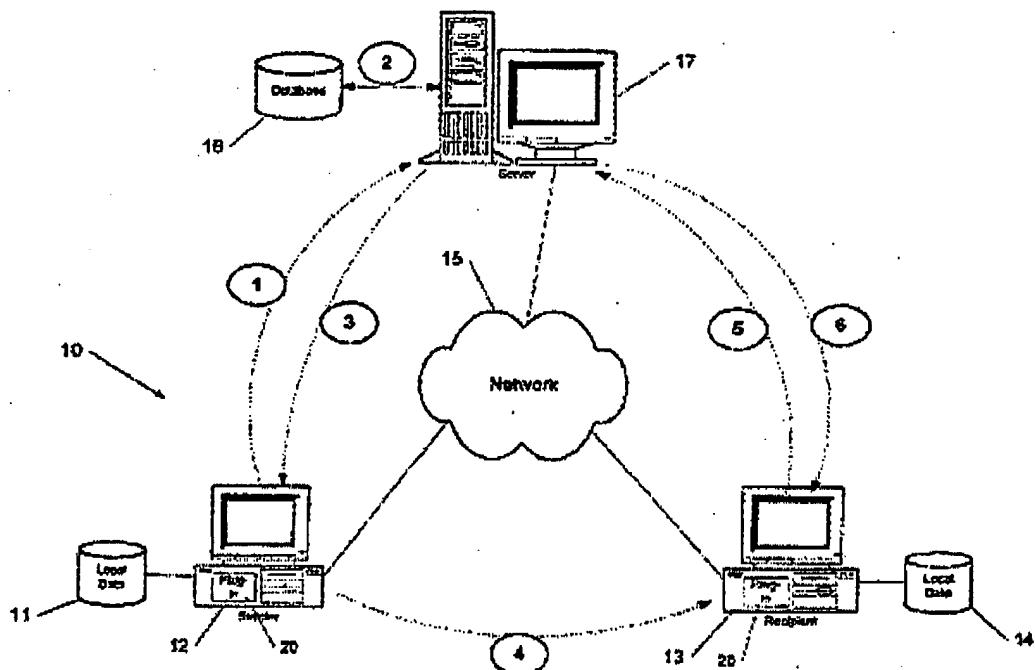


Fig. 1A

As shown in Figure 1A and in paragraphs 35-38, Morkel teaches that after the server 17 searches database 16 for contact information associated with the recipient based on the email address of the recipient (arrow 2), the server responds with information relating to the contact information to be appended to the email message to the sender (arrow 3). The sender then sends the email to the recipient (arrow 4). The recipient's occurrence is communicated to the server (arrow 5) and the server responds back with the new contact information (arrow 6).

Thus, instead of sending the contact information to a status server and updating the dynamic contact records in the status server, the server of Morkel retrieves the contact information from the database and sends the contact information directly to the recipient. Morkel does not perform any update of the dynamic contact records in the server. Therefore, Morkel also does not teach the features of claims 1, 46, and 91 of the present invention.

Furthermore, Elliot nor Morkel, either alone or in combination, teaches or suggests displaying, at the given client, information for one of the plurality of subscribed entities from the at least one subscribed dynamic contact record based on display preferences specified by an operator of the given client. There is no mention of display preferences that are specified by an operator of the given client for displaying information from at least one subscribed dynamic contact record that is received from the status server in either reference. Elliot teaches the ability for subscribers, who publish the contact information, to customize their Personal Home Page for guests to see. Elliot does not teach the ability to specify display preferences by guests, similar to an operator of the given client, who receives the contact information. The guests of Elliot may only search for the Personal Home Page and view what is defined by the subscribers. Therefore, Elliot does not teach or suggest the features of claims 1, 46, and 91 of the present invention.

Morkel also does not teach or suggests displaying, at the given client, information for one of the plurality of subscribed entities from the at least one subscribed dynamic contact record based on display preferences specified by an operator of the given client. Morkel's recipient receives an email message from the server directly if the recipient is a subscriber of the service provided by the server. The recipient may either accept or decline the contact information. However, Morkel does not mention any display preference that the recipient may specify in order to display the contact information. Therefore, Morkel also does not teach or suggest the features of claims 1, 46, and 91 of the present invention.

Moreover, the Office Action alleges that it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the references in order to utilize the current information as disclosed by Morkel to update entity whose contact information is contained in the current contact record of Morkel's. Applicants respectfully disagree. First, neither reference mentions a dynamic contact information service that dynamically updates the dynamic contact information from a calendar system. Second, neither reference mentions updating dynamic

contact records in a status server. Third, neither reference mentions displaying contact information based on display preferences specified by an operator of the given client. Therefore, absent some teaching or suggestion in either reference, a person of ordinary skill in the art would not have been led to combine the teachings of Elliot and Morkel to reach the presently claimed invention.

Furthermore, there is no motivation to combine the references to reach the presently claimed invention. Elliot is concerned with providing a Personal Home Page as defined by subscribers to guests such that the guests may access the contact information within the Personal Home Page via a search. Morkel is only concerned with sending email messages to a recipient to notify the recipient of their contact information. Neither Elliot nor Morkel retrieves dynamic contact information from a dynamic contact information server that dynamically updates the contact information, updates a status server with the contact information, or display the contact information based on display preferences specified by the operator of the given client. Therefore, a person of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine the references to reach the presently claimed invention.

In view of the above, neither Elliot nor Morkel, either alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the feature of claims 1, 46, and 91. At least by virtue of their dependency on claims 1, 46, and 91, neither Elliot nor Morkel teaches or suggests the features of dependent claims 3-14, 16, 18-45, 48-59, 61, 63-90, 93-104, 106, 108-135. In addition, dependent claims 3-14, 16, 18-45, 48-59, 61, 63-90, 93-104, 106, 108-135 of the present invention also contain additional features not found in either reference. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1, 3-14, 16, 18-46, 48-59, 61, 63-91, 93-104, 106, 108-135 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) has been overcome.

IV. Conclusion

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is patentable over the cited references and is now in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the Examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

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Respectfully submitted,



Wing Yan Mok
Reg. No. 56,237
Yee & Associates, P.C.
P.O. Box 802333
Dallas, TX 75380
(972) 385-8777
Agent for Applicants